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BEER AS A REMEDY IN POLAND FROM THE SEVENTEENTH TO THE NINETEENTH CENTURIES

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Aims: The paper aims to present a medicinal use of beer in Poland in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, because according to old medical treatises, beer was not only alcoholic beverage but also valuable medicine and cosmetic. The paper also aims to characterise analyses of beer carried out in Polish pharmacies in the nineteenth century.

Methods: Some Polish old treatises on medicine and botany from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were analysed to find how beer was produced and used in medical practice and cosmetic treatments. A survey of Polish pharmaceutical journals from the nineteenth century was done.

Results: Poles have considered themselves as inventors of beer. They used beer as remedy for stomach and skin diseases and popular energizing beverage for children and teenagers. Historical sorts of Polish beer were different from a today's ones because of their low content of alcohol and a lack of hop addition. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Polish beer was home made but with the flow of time it was more often produced in pharmacies and distilleries. In the nineteenth century, pharmacists run beer trade and specialized in control of